

# Net Neutrality: COMP6218



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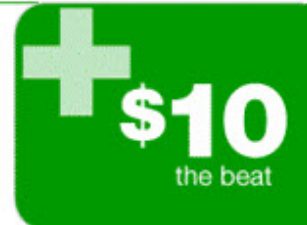
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# Net Neutrality – What kind of Web do we want?

- Should Internet Providers be able to influence what kind of material can appear on the Internet?

- Who are the actors?



- How control?
  - Block, throttle e.g. media types, or service types.
  - Only allow promoted partners.

# Regulation

- Chile in 2010
- Netherlands in 2011
- Brazil in 2014,
- Slovenia
- Recently in the US
- And most recently 27th October 2015, the European Commission has adopted the Telecoms Single Market regulation including **Open Internet** guarantees
  - In the open Internet all traffic will be treated equally
  - Subject to public interest exceptions – child porn, cyber security, malware
  - Compromise for fast lane.



# FOR – open, distributed network

- The Internet considered a human right?
- The Web – the Internet – is an open, public system that is made up of many privately owned components.
- Those who own the networks and the sites shouldn't be able to control what the internet is used for.
  - Like a water company controlling whether you can wash your hands or have a shower
  - Or a car company Ford forbidding you to put Sainsbury or Walmart's groceries in the boot / trunk.
- Innovation
  - We didn't know in 1980 what the internet would be used for (just email and file transfer!)
  - We can't prejudge what new kinds of data and service will come along
  - Must have an equal access for startups and big companies

# FOR – Internet needs protection

- As well as ISPs (BT / AT&T), other Web companies are providing Internet services
  - Facebook's Internet.org - in Africa
  - Google Loon project – balloons in the stratosphere beaming a 4G service
- Will they only offer access to their business partners Websites?
- ISPs should not become gatekeepers of what works well in the Internet and what doesn't.
  - We haven't voted for them
  - They are business oriented
- This can kill competition and innovation, especially startups.

# FOR – protection for industry and consumers

- Protection for content provider
  - you won't be subject to the willingness of the ISP to give you a fast or a slow lane to your data.
- Protection for content user
  - why some sites should take more time to load, or even never load, as the product of a decision of your ISP?
- The Web envisioned by TBL is neutral. It is an open platform for collaboration and innovation. The web is what it is now because he designed it for data to be treated equally. #WEBWEWANT



# See Also

- NET NEUTRALITY IN EUROPE: A STATEMENT FROM SIR TIM BERNERS-LEE (2015)  
A statement by Tim Berners-Lee which was posted on the 26th October 2015, the day before the European Parliament vote
  - <http://webfoundation.org/2015/10/net-neutrality-in-europe-a-statement-from-sir-tim-berners-lee/>
- HOW UK ISPS HAVE A CHOKEHOLD ON OUR INTERNET ACCESS (2014)  
An article written by Jay McGregor on the Techradar.com website
  - <http://www.techradar.com/news/internet/uk-isps-a-private-members-club-stifling-progression--1246056>
- WHY WE SHOULD JOIN THE MOVEMENT TO SAVE THE INTERNET IN EUROPE (2015)  
An article written on the 26th October 2015 by Professor Barbara Schewick, a law professor in Stanford University, and Larry Lessig which is available on the Backchannel website
  - <https://medium.com/backchannel/why-we-should-join-the-movement-to-save-the-internet-in-europe-larry-lessig-and-barbara-van-189b7206c6ac>

# Against – someone has to pay!

- The Internet has already been considered considered a human right...
- The Internet is not free, someone has to pay for it.
- **ORIGINALLY IT WAS ALL PAID BY GOVERNMENT / MILITARY BECAUSE IT WAS SPECIALISED AND SMALL**
- However, not everyone can afford it, and even if they could, there are areas where there is no service, but...



# Against – Companies work in the public good

- Great news!: There are moves being made towards granting access to everyone, both at industry and governmental level.
  - **Companies:** Silicon Valley companies not only seek profit They also known for undertaking important social missions that governments cannot afford. The innovative nature of industry can play in benefit for everyone. **Strict net neutrality regulations could be detrimental** to the innovative drive of these companies.
    - Internet.org, by Facebook: providing free (or affordable) connectivity to underserved regions in Africa, Asia and Latinamerica. **Although they are basic services, and chosen by the provider, it is much better than nothing! And it can really change the lives of many people.**
    - Project Loon, by Google: releasing high altitude balloons highly cost effective to create a network of transmitters that can provide connectivity to large areas. **It is Google, they may be after our data, but the service they are providing is invaluable:** connectivity to everyone, TBL's dream come true!
- **Governments:** We are also witnessing how governments are regulating towards the provision of affordable internet for everyone. For example, last 27th of October the European Commission approved a package of measures that include the end of roaming charges by 2017. They have also allowed ISPs to continue trading with fast Internet lanes, which is a reasonable compromise. That decision is on the interest of everyone, as it incentivates ISPs to provide a better service

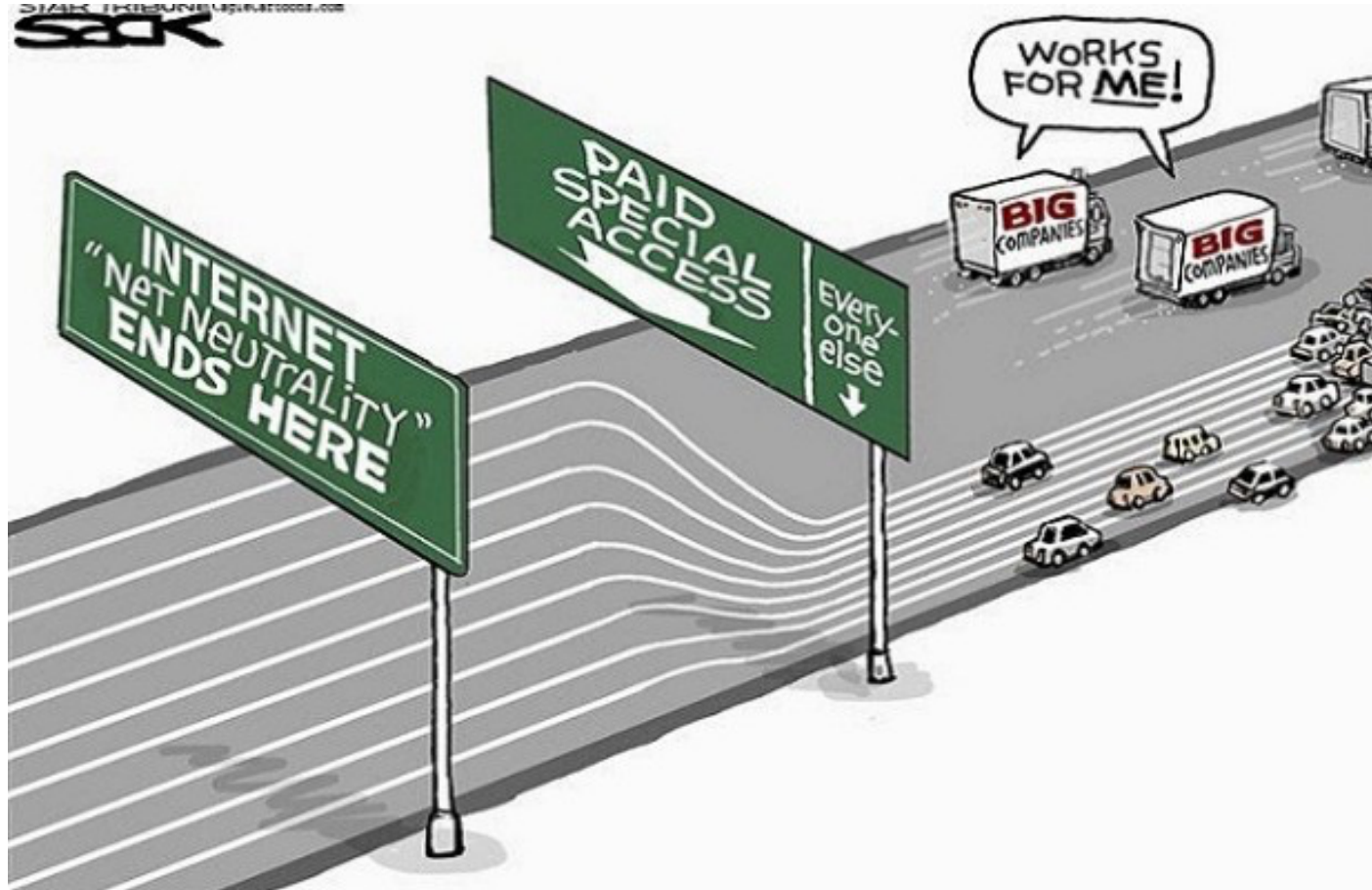
# AGAINST – Government Interference

- **tight regulation can kill competition.** This competition is what is making ISPs to provide better service at a better price, and it is a nobel price economist Gary Becker, who says that: net neutrality can be detrimental to consumer welfare
- **We cannot treat all data equally.** Video streaming, for example, is highly demanding, and so is illegal P2P sharing. Strict Net neutrality regulations are dangerous because they can overload the lanes with traffic and compromise the circulation of important data.
- Nicholas Negroponte's example: if you have a **pacemaker** sending and receiving data to the cloud, Net neutrality can put your life in danger because an overload of traffic caused by video streamers can slow down the data exchange of your medical device.

# See Also

- **NICHOLAS NEGROPONTE: NET NEUTRALITY DOESN'T MAKE SENSE**
  - In this video available on the Big Think web site, MIT Media Lab founder Nicholas Negroponte discusses why he thinks that net neutrality doesn't make sense. You may like to skip to 3:04 minutes for the first mention of net neutrality
  - <http://bigthink.com/videos/bits-bits-everywhere-with-mit-media-labs-nicholas-negroponte>
- **THE UK DOESN'T NEED NET NEUTRALITY REGULATIONS ... YET (2015)**
  - In this article available on The Conversation website, Professor Jon Crowcroft from Cambridge University discusses why net neutrality regulations could be detrimental to the service that ISPs provide in areas where there is fair competition between ISPs such as the UK, Europe, Japan, and South Korea
  - <https://theconversation.com/the-uk-doesnt-need-net-neutrality-regulations-yet-38204>

# Make Up Your Own Mind



- But argue **CRITICALLY** about the pros and cons
- Don't blindly accept anyone's propaganda
- Come to a **REASONED** conclusion